



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



September 2023

Science & Exercises

Items of Interest in this edition

NVIS Exercise	p. 1
Huntsville Hamfest Pictures	p. 2
Portable Operations	p. 3
Weeklong POTA	p. 4
Radio Club Activities	p. 5
Stone Mtn. Hamfest, NW District	p. 6
ARES SET & Solar Eclipse	p. 7
Awards	p. 8
ARES Info	p. 9
New Georgia ARES Website	p.10
Mini Hamfest	p.11

Upcoming Events

- 9/15-16** - Georgia Jewel Race, Dalton
9/23-24 - 6 Gap Race, Dahlonega
9/23-24 - Peach 150
10/7 - Statewide NVIS exercise
10/28 - POTA Sprint
11/4-5 - Stone Mtn. Hamfest & ARRL Convention

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com before the 5th of each month.

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f6WBBhYzN-4Z-D69x0ceGIIpGqulWI1?usp=share_link

Prepping for the October 7th NVIS test with event organizer W8BYH, K4GVO, KN4YZ, N4FOR, and yours truly KI4ASK. W8BYH setup an Icom 7300 running 100w into an NVIS dipole antenna and I ran an Icom 705 QRP 5w into a homemade speaker wire antenna also NVIS. We checked into the Georgia AuxComm 60m. Additionally Brian is checking into the ARES digital and voice nets. Fun and learning was had by all.



The NVIS exercise operations will start on 40 meters instead of 80 meters. You can view the operating schedule change in the NVIS Exercise Briefing Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/>



Huntsville Hamfest



Portable Operations

8/28/23 Headed out this morning to do a little PO-TA. Drove over to K-6927 Which is the Nantahala state game lands located at Lake Cherokee. The place was empty so I had the entire parking lot to myself. ended up with 37 in the log before pulling the plug and heading over to the K-7459, Nottely Dam Recreation area and ended with 49 in log. One QSO to Sweden and one to Chili topped it off. Running a FT-891, MFJ 17ft whip and 100w. Made contacts on 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters.



8/15/23 Monday, I headed to Altoona Pennsylvania to help the daughter back into her dorm for another semester of nursing school. I decided to go a day early (Monday) and activate a few parks on Tuesday while she was driving up. Started up fairly early and drove to K-8845, PA 147 State Game Land. I ended up with 50 in the log. Packed up and headed to K-8740, PA 041 State Game Land. Where I ended up with 51 QSO's. Packed up and headed to K-8772, PA 073 State Game Land. This was the first one that did not have any cell service. I then drove about a mile away and pulled the map up from the states website and found another parking area about 3 miles away. When I got there, I had 2 bars on my phone and enough to spot myself. I struggled to get 12 contacts but deemed it a success and headed to the 4th park for the day. K-8895 PA 198 State Game Land was just as bad as the last and struggled to 17 in the log.

The last park for the day would be a National Historic area. K-0798 Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site. I didn't go in as it was getting late afternoon and I was tired, so I just set up and called CQ, putting 29 in log. All in all, it was a good day, 5 parks and 159 QSO's. And a few misc photos.

Wayne Fussell, N3CDF

Jasper Radio Club

8/19/23 2 states, 5 parks, 93 contacts, and 1 ham-fest. It was a good day. NG4DX & K4SJR



Dalton ARC

I wanted to reposition my EFHW, but I didn't have trees to hold the wire. Here's my solution.

Eric Smith, K4AZM



KD4YDC - POTA K-2171

8/21 - 8/25

What a week! We picked one of the hottest weeks of the summer to go RV'ing and for me to do "RV POTA"! Temps were in the upper 90's with heat indexes of 105+ for most of the week. However with my box fan and my "POTA Tent in the woods" we managed to stay responsibly comfortable.

I had two setups that I used simultaneously when working FT8 (having them transmit / receive at the same time) without filters. I used my IC-706mkIIG for digital (on about 40 watts) and SSB and my IC-705 for digital only at 5 watts. My antennas was a 9:1 end fed flat topped somewhere around 70 to 80 feet for the QRO rig and a random wire in a inverted V up at about 20 feet connected to a tuner for my QRP setup.

Bands were honestly not that great, or I have seen much better. Even so I had to really move things around from SSB to FT8 when it seemed like NO ONE was on the bands especially during the day. I did really try and band hop especially on FT8. Really wasn't setup for 80m even though I did listen. Also tried 6m with no luck.

What I was really shocked at was for a time how 15m was open. And I won't say "WIDE" open because all I was hearing was West Coast and Europe. NOTHING in close or on the east coast. It was really cool to see how much DX was chasing me for a time.

The site itself sits kind of on a peninsula on Lake Lanier (which is northeast of metro Atlanta). Very large lake that sports lots of nice boating / kayaking / canoeing if your into that thing. Also for you RV'ers it probably has one of the best beaches in the Georgia State Park System. So while I was playing radio, the wife went to the beach.

I mentioned above my “Google Album” for my activation. I

took more videos during the week than anything. Honestly... it was just too doggone hot to get out from in front of that fan! (Ha!). So if you want, take a look at the album I put together. If the links above do not format right, here is the link for that; <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NmPWD7YtgNAZgReV7> If you click on the "I" icon in the upper right corner it will open a side window. I tried to put in a description on each. Please excuse some of the ramblings on video. You will see a couple where I rambled about my musings on whether being on that hill, on a peninsula, with the water 100 yards (give and take on that one) away from where I was operating was helping in some of the signals I was seeing that week. I don't know... you tell me.

Also had an interesting situation on the last half of the last day I was operating. My QRP laptop died. FORTUNATELY my friend David Salomon AG4F was able to recover my files and I was able to get that log uploaded! (Thanks David!!!!) So it looks like I had 523 SSB contacts and 562 FT8 contacts for the week. A grand total of 1140 contacts.

THANKS SO MUCH to all of the hunters who worked me this past week. I had several come back 2,3,4 even 5 times (possibly more!) to work me both on SSB and FT8. As I mentioned to several of them I LOVED working all the hunters and wanted very much to give all of them a contact from K-2171.

Thanks and 73,
Robert Burton, KD4YDC



Radio Club Activities

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA) VFW Post 5255
October 21th from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
368 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
For directions, please go to <http://goo.gl/maps/8b4zx>

This is a free event that is open to all Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts & the general public. Come learn and have fun at JOTA 2023. JOTA is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in our own community. Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, Ventures and Girl Scouts. This is the official JOTA site of the Northeast Georgia Council Amateur Radio Club KK4BSA.



For Scouts BSA interested in the Radio Merit Badge, we will be signing off on requirement 9(a). You can either bring a Blue Card or we will provide a signed certificate which can be brought to the Apalachee Advance-A-Rama where the other Merit Badge requirements will be covered.

Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

My Grandson Coy passed his Technician test at the Huntsville Hamfest Saturday!! He's happy along with a proud PawPaw! Just waiting on the callsign.

Felton, AF4DN



Athens Radio Club

The Athens Radio Club will be providing communications for **UGA** home games beginning in September.



Also, in August the club provided communications for the Coach Mike Run/AKA "Skeeter Trot." Aug 05, 2023-8:00 AM. Bob Herrin, KE4JLL, ARC Public Services coordinator reported, "We had a great turnout for the Coach Mike Run/"Skeeter Trot" one of the oldest cross country 5K races through the woods behind the Athens YMCA. Everyone prepared, so the mosquitos didn't get a lot to eat.

Thanks to: James KF4AQO, Jess N4JAH (ARC President) Alan KA4FJV, Mark W0GZR, Scott KW4NJA, & Jim KF4RX.

We had several runners thank us for being there. At the end of the race, I was at the finish line and one of the runners came up to me and said that it was so good to have us there. It made her smile – we were so friendly and helpful, and she felt safer on the trail with us there.

Tricounty Amateur Radio Club

Congratulations to Kenton for passing all 3 exams in one sitting! 1.5 hrs total time. Super scores!



Stone Mountain Hamfest & Convention



A lot of updates have happened to the Stone Mountain HamFest page and other pages of the site. 50% Better Forum 50% Better Workshops

The Saturday Forum Workshop list is full and I'm working on the Sunday list:

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/speakersforums/>

I need YOUR help filling up the Sunday schedule... Use the Contact Us page/form to volunteer or to tell me about a forum or workshop you would want to attend... If you know somebody who gave a great presentation, feel free to nominate them...

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/contact-us/>

Something New:

In years past we had a Skills Workshop for the ARES folks to work on their Taskbook, it's now a Build-A-Thon where folks can build an EFHW 40-10m antenna. Here is a link to the details about the kit and its cost.

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/build-a-thon/>

Only 60-Days until the HamFest, the Ticket Booth is open! Show your support and get your tickets now. There is an Early-Bird prize for those buying Admission Tickets via the Ticket Booth.

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/ticket-booth/>

Ham Radio Exams:

Exams for all license tests are from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.

There is no fee to take an exam, the HamFest is covering the fee for all examinees. We do ask that you come prepared; bring a filled-out 605 form and your FCC Registration Number (FRN). It would also be a good idea to have taken and passed FREE practice exams...

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/ve-testing/>

Lodging and Camping Info:

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/lodging/>

<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/camping/>

NW Georgia District Activities

The DEC for the North West Georgia District Felton Floyd (AF4DN) held a district meeting in Calhoun Georgia.

This meeting consisted of:

1. Putting a face with a call sign of our new District EC's. & AEC's.
2. Georgia Jewel
3. Nets, Repeater, Digital, Simplex, HF, P2P, & Weekly Tasks.
4. SET plans



Frank, K4SJR getting ready for the Georgia Jewel 9/15/16 (and, of course, POTA)



ARES SET & Eclipse Science

Is your ARES group participating in this year's SET from multiple locations and generating Winlink traffic? If the answer is yes, consider creating and using tactical addresses for each location. Is your group using a club call sign and sharing same? If yes, consider using auxiliary call signs.

A tactical address is useful for a couple of reasons:

1. Provide functional identification e.g., NSH-DULUTH vs KK4FGL (Northside Hospital in Duluth).
2. Alternative when a club call is not available for use (good consideration for our Hospital Net).
3. Facilitates shared usage without risk of changing a call sign associated account.
4. When Winlink Express checks for incoming messages it receives both messages addressed to the user's primary call sign and any enabled tactical addresses.
5. CMS server will not accept creating a tactical address already registered in system. Once you have obtained a tactical address, it is yours until deleted or expires.

When you create a tactical address in Winlink Express, please log into the winlink.org account associated with that address. Yes, a tactical address has an account. In the account information minimally set a recovery email address! This is a recommended practice, it is what we have done for the GAARES-NET and the GAAUXC tactical addresses.

Are you using a club call as a Winlink Express primary call (the call sign on the main Winlink window, top left corner) for traffic and sharing that call with other operators whom are using it as a primary call in their own Winlink Express setup? If so you are at risk of one of the operators inadvertently changing the club call Winlink account password and worse yet changing the contact and recovery email information. You can avoid that risk by using the club call as an auxiliary call sign.

In either situation of using a specific tactical address or auxiliary call sign, you must ensure that only one station is actively in use. If two or more stations use the same tactical address, auxiliary call sign or for that matter primary call sign at the same time, it results in race conditions to messages at the CMS server. Not good! So manage the usage of tactical addresses and call signs with a station schedule. As an off going station passes

the traffic handling baton on to a second, the off going station disables the tactical address or auxiliary call sign while the on coming does the enable function.

Do I have your interest? Please see:

YouTube: https://youtu.be/j2plQVl0o_c

Presentation: <https://groups.io/g/gaares/files/Winlink/Winlink%20Tactical%20and%20Auxiliary%20Setup.pdf>

73- Mark N7GRB

Technical Specialist, GA Section ARRL



October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024, will bring both an annular and then a total solar eclipse. These celestial events will be followed widely by hams because of the sudden and dynamic changes that occur in the ionosphere during an eclipse. While much is known about ionospheric propagation, much is still to be learned. And these will be the last two solar eclipses in North America for nearly 20 years.

ARRL is partnering with HamSCI – the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation to encourage amateurs to get on the air and operate as part of the **The HamSCI Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science**. Propagation experiments will include the Solar Eclipse QSO Party using CW, FT4/8, SSB and other digital modes and The Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge (GSSC) using CW, WSPR and FST4W modes.

The October 14th event will run from 1200-2200 UTC and amateurs may operate on any band and any mode from 6-160 meters (except the WARC bands.)

All the details may be found at www.hamsci.org/eclipse. If you have any questions or know of a club that would be interested in having a presentation to learn more about the science around the events, please contact the HamSCI Public Relations Officer, Ed Efchak WX2R at pressrelations@hamsci.org.

Help your local hams to save the dates...get on the air...and send in a log. Help be a part of science!

Awards



Congratulations to Thomas Fuller, KE4QCM, for completing the Georgia ARES Winlink Independent (intermediate level) Proficiency training!

The GA ARES Winlink Proficiency Program is in its third year of use. The program defines three levels of proficiency: basic, independent and advanced. For details of the program visit:

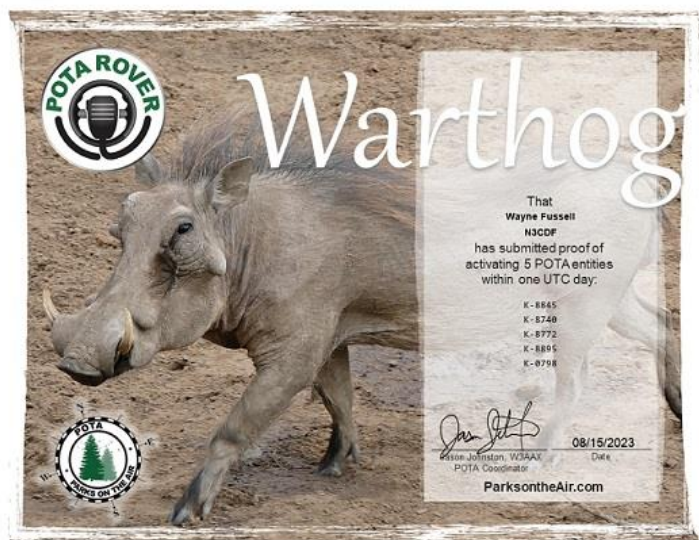
<https://groups.io/.../Win.../Winlink%20Proficiency%20Program>

and <https://youtu.be/Hg8aQhvv-7M>

Unlike typical digital training, the proficiency program is theme based with three fundamental objectives:

- * Develop skills in Winlink Express usage and core ICS forms used by agencies we serve
- * Build on message transcription skills (accuracy in transcribing agency messages into Winlink forms)
- * Operator workflow in support of agency operations (ICS-214, ICS-309)

The training is self-paced following the exercise material. An Elmer with Winlink experience receives the student operator message traffic, reviews the traffic for accuracy, provides feedback and when needed initiates messages to the student operator.



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

NW GA District ARES is still going strong, with its Digital Exercises. Join in the Fun, see below.

Come join in on the HF Vara P2P Exercise on Tuesday nights. The time is 6 pm- 8 pm. We have added the 40 meter band as you can see below. We're also using the 60 meter band. Send a simple Winlink message to each Net Control when you connect. Make sure the message is sent as a P2P message when you do.

Here are the frequencies to be used.

CF-Center Frequency / DF- Dial Frequency

80 meters - K4HYJ - CF 3597.00 / DF 3595.50
60 meters - NG4DX - CF 5348.00 / DF 5346.50
40 meters - W4JNR - CF 7084.00 / DF 7082.50
10 meters - KN4CNX - CF 2808.00 / DF 2878.50

A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for July 2023

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 50
Number of ARES nets - 2023
Nets with NTS liaison - 5
Number of Exercises &
Training Sessions - 762 (3228 hrs.)
Number of Public Service events - 16 (158 hrs.)
Number of Emergency Operations - 15 (317 hrs.)
Number of SkyWarn Operations - 68 (576 hrs.)

Total of Exercises & Events 861

Total of person hours 4279

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

kn4qj@arrl.net

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO

k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO, David Blubaugh, ND1J

PSK & Traffic Nets Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL

Interim Team Lead: Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

D-RATS Net Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

2023 Georgia ARES NVIS Exercise

07 October 2023

Sponsored by Georgia ARES

Coordinated by Fayette County ARES

In cooperation with Georgia ARES, Fayette County ARES will sponsor the 2023 NVIS (near-vertical incidence skywave) communications exercise

This exercise will be designed to allow ARES groups and individuals to test the effectiveness of their NVIS antenna and station setups

With NVIS it's not about how far you can communicate - we all know we can work DX from our stations

With NVIS it's all about short distance comms on 40, 60 & 80 meters - can you get to the state EOC, your county EOC, or regional EOCs with critical voice or digital traffic when line-of-site comms are down?

The Atlanta Radio Club holds exams every second Sunday at noon. Tests are given at the Peachtree Dekalb Airport. Tests are free. Pre-registration is appreciated but walk-ins are welcome. Check the ARC website for more information.

Atlanta Radio Club test results September 10th:

5 new Technicians: Michael P, Alexander, Nicholas, Michael G and Timo

Upgraded to General: Matthew KO4BEW, Abby KQ4JEU, and Barry KQ4KOT

GA ARES New Web Site

A new web site is under development! Version 1 will be released very soon and will replace the existing site. The new site contains the following features.

Site Features

Title	District	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Callsign	County
District Emergency Coordinator	Central	Rick	Gunderman		WY4X	Peach
Emergency Coordinator	Central	Paul	Bernichon		KJ4WKK	Baldwin
Emergency Coordinator	Central	Chad	Cowser		WD4CC	Bibb

Member Registration – Members of GA ARES can register and create a user profile. Registration provides many benefits including establishing restricted access to information that is not for the public to view. Example – The membership directory with profile information. If a password change is needed, members can initiate the reset without the intervention of an administrator.

A complete member roster stored in a single location will be a huge benefit. The data is available for export in a .csv format.

User Roles - Access is controlled by user roles and other criteria. Some information like the

State Meeting or state level SET information is relevant to everyone. Other information is only relevant to a subset of members such as plans within the district or county. General information is available to the public.

Document Library - Documents can be uploaded to a folder structure with access provided privately and to visitors. An example of public content is the Georgia on My Mind Newsletter.

Documents are stored in a central location rather than on members' personal computers across the state. The system provides the capability of version control. Replacing a document with newer content does not delete the original document which is available if needed.

Documents are stored in a folder structure. Folder permissions are assigned based on user roles. It may be possible to create folders down to the county (local group) level (under evaluation). The need to email copies of files to large groups will not be necessary. As the people occupying positions change, information can be easily passed to the next person.

Some files such as PDF files can be viewed in a pop-up window without having to open the file in a new tab.

Calendar – A comprehensive calendar for net, meeting, exercise schedules is easily updateable by members with assigned roles. When ARES Connect ended, many members stated that they missed the calendar with information from across the state. Finding VHF nets in adjoining counties was simple. All this information will again be in one location. The ability to link to a map is an included feature along with other details entered by the creator of the calendar entry.

Search – The entire site is searchable including the membership database, document names, descriptions, tags, and calendar content.

News – Articles and notifications such as potential weather events can be published in a matter of minutes by anyone assigned to the appropriate role.

Auto Screen Resizing – The site automatically formats to work on the available display such as phones and tablets.

Work will continue to improve the appearance and structure of the site as we take advantage of the available features. If you have experience with WordPress and/or graphics creation, you are needed. Please contact:

Lee Stone – Section Emergency Coordinator

lstone@webfunctions.com

North Fulton Amateur Radio League holds Mini Hamfest

Tuesday, September 19th, the North Fulton Amateur Radio League will be hosting a mini hamfest. Setup will begin at 6:00 PM. The event will run to about 9:00 PM.

All are invited. This is in place of the September club meeting. There will be no club business, just a fun swap shop/flea market in a climate controlled environment. Last year many nice treasures were available as well as odds and ends so come and visit. Even if you don't find that sought after rarity, it will be a great opportunity to visit with your fellow hams.

Directions to the Meeting Location

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/3655+Preston+Ridge+Rd+%23100,+Alpharetta,+GA+30005/@34.0686083,-84.2607463,15.81z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x88f59e366168b3d1:0x711de3f8b3c5449!8m2!3d34.0702151!4d-84.2516683?hl=en>

As you come into the parking lot, turn to the left and follow the signs to lead you around the edge of the lot to the far side (look for antennas on cars). There's plenty of parking and the Community Center is at the left end of the building. Go to the front entrance.

Tables are free to NFARL members. Everyone is invited regardless of membership. There are a limited number of tables still available. If you are not a NFARL member, you can join the club to reserve a table. For table info contact Steve Randall @ KO4HVW@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there,

John N4TOL